

PATENT
Serial No. 10/531,976
Amendment in Reply to Office Action mailed on January 23, 2006

IN THE DRAWING

Please replace FIGs 1A and 1B with the enclosed replacement
FIGs 1A and 1B.

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REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed January 23, 2006, which has been reviewed and carefully considered.

By means of the present amendment, claims 2-3 have been canceled without prejudice, claims 1 and 4-6 have been amended and new claims 7-11 have been added. Claims 1 and 4-11 are now pending in this application, with claims 1 and 7 being the only independent claims.

Reconsideration and allowance of the application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

By means of the present amendment, the current Abstract has been deleted and substituted with the enclosed New Abstract which better conforms to U.S. practice.

By means of the present amendment, claims 1 and 4-6 have been amended for better conformance to U.S. practice, such as deleting reference designations typically used in European practice that are known to not limit the scope of the claims, beginning the dependent

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claims with 'The' instead of 'A', and changing "characterized in that" to --wherein--. Claims 1 and 4-6 were not amended in order to address issues of patentability and Applicant respectfully reserves all rights under the Doctrine of Equivalents.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings for failing to include "Prior Art" legend in FIGs 1A and 1B. In response, "Prior Art" legend has been added to FIGs 1A and 1B. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the drawings objection and approval of the enclosed proposed drawing changes.

In the Office Action, claim 2 is objected rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as allegedly indefinite. It is respectfully submitted that this rejection is moot in view of the cancellation of claim 2.

In the Office Action, claims 1-2 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,075,297 (Izawa) in view of an article entitled "Permanent-Magnet Machines with Powdered Iron Cores and Prepressed Windings," IEEE Transactions on Industry Applications, Vol. 36, No.4, July/August 2000, Pages 1077-1084 (Jack). Further, claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over JP 07-

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7100170 (Uzuka) in view of Jack. Claims 4-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Izawa in view of Jack and U.S. Patent No. 6,528,907 (Hwang).

It is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 4-11 should be allowable over Izawa, Jack, Uzuka and Hwang for at least the following reasons.

Izawa is directed to a linear motor having a movable piece 20. As shown in FIGs 6A and 6B, the movable piece 20 has a square cross-section. Uzuka is also directed to a linear motor with a movable piece. The Uzuka movable piece has a circular cross-section as shown in FIG 2.

In stark contrast, the present invention as recited in independent claim 1, and similarly recited in independent claim 7, amongst other patentable elements requires (illustrative emphasis provided):

wherein a cross-section of said core of soft-magnetic composite material has a substantially triangular shape.

This feature is nowhere taught or suggested in Izawa and Hwang. Jack and Uzuka are cited to allegedly show other features and do not remedy the deficiencies in Izawa and Hwang.

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Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 7 should be allowable, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 4-6 and 8-11 should also be allowed at least based on their dependence from amended independent claims 1 and 7.

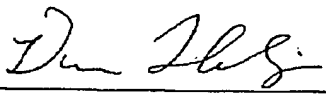
In addition, Applicant denies any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicant reserves the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

It is believed that no additional fees or charges are currently due. However, in the event that any additional fees or charges are required for entrance of the accompanying amendment, they may be charged to Applicant's representatives Deposit Account No. 50-3649. In addition, please credit any overpayments related to any fees paid in connection with the accompanying amendment to Deposit Account No. 50-3649.

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In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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April 24, 2006

Enclosure: Replacement drawing sheet (1 sheet including FIGs 1A
and 1B)
New Abstract

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